

TOP SECRET

29 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR : Mr. Bissell

SUBJECT : Items on which I have taken action

1. I have given [] authority to send a Commo officer as soon as possible to [] to get that station lined up from a commo standpoint in order that we may operate there at least by 15 July. I also feel that a security officer should visit both Adana and [] areas to get first-hand information on the security implications involved at these two places so that he may better fulfill the security requirements from Headquarters.

2. In accordance with the recommendation of [] regarding surface transportation in the Turkey area, I have approved the elimination of sedans and similar types of vehicles to be replaced by jeeps, carryalls, and M-43 field ambulances for Adana. As I understand it these vehicles are available and are recommended for that area by the people who have experience down there. [] has sent out the appropriate notification regarding this change in vehicles.

3. [] advised me that he is taking a trip to Europe around 6 July on other Agency business and requested permission to visit our bases if his schedule will merit. I gave him permission and will so notify our Security people in order that he can be cleared for entry to our installations. He will touch base with this Headquarters prior to his departure in order that we may know his itinerary.

4. I have discussed with [] availability for a short trip to Europe to assist in the move from [] [] has given his approval and said that although he has not discussed this with [] he is sure there will be no objection on his part. It is my recommendation that we do not send [] until a definite decision is forthcoming regarding the operation in the [] area. As soon as we decide on how we are going to operate in that area, we should ask [] if [] presence on a several weeks TDY would be of benefit to him, and if the answer is affirmative, then we should send [] Otherwise, I believe I would wait until the move is made in order that [] may observe the first operations, or until we see a need for him due to any possible foul-up in operational procedures.

5. I have informed [] to look into the inefficient routing of the -31's. I gave him the following instructions. The -31's coming from P & W home factory will be shipped directly to overseas

TOP SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~

-2-

detachments. Any -31's which are now on the West Coast will be shipped directly to the Detachments when we authorize their shipment without having them routed back through P & W home plant unless they must go there for overhaul. Neither [] nor I know why these last two engines were shipped from [] to the home plant of P & W before shipment to Detachment A; however, [] is checking into this.

25X1
25X1
25X1

6. Mr. Rhode of NACA called and stated that the VG Recorders which weigh on the order of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ pounds are available in numbers such that we could put one in every U-2. This VG Recorder will actually record data and has to have the tape changed every 10 hours. However, the information from it cannot in any way compromise our program because neither altitude nor speed are indicated. This is a reliable gadget which the Air Force has tried to put into every airplane in order to get statistical records on gust conditions. As you know, Gen. Cabell stated that it was his desire that every Aquatone aircraft carry some sort of atmospheric data gathering equipment during all flights even though such equipment might not work or might not be applicable to our program. We were unable to find any gadget in the neighborhood of ounces which could plausibly be said to be an atmospheric data gathering instrument. I have told Mr. Rhode that we will want 19 of these VG Recorders for our aircraft and we will take action to have them located somewhere in the aircraft. Where they are located is immaterial and I am sure will cause no interference with the project equipment other than the carrying around of an additional $1\frac{3}{4}$ pounds of weight. I will discuss this at [] and will have [] get Lockheed to look into installing this gadget in the airplanes.

25X1

25X1

7. Kelly Johnson complained to [] as I understand it, that Lockheed has insufficient test time to run tests on JP-1 fuel. This of course is contingent upon when the fuel arrives. Right now the fuel is scheduled to arrive 15 June or no later than 1 July. I do not understand Kelly's complaint inasmuch as Kelly has charge of scheduling the test program, and I believe this is a case where Kelly is yelling before he is hurt. I will naturally look into this on my trip out there and I am sure I will find that the testing of JP-1 will cause no interference with our program. If such is not the case I will notify you immediately.

25X1

8. As you recall, after we lost No. 5, I called Gen. Bunker regarding having two of his men cleared to help during the accident investigation. [] people and [] by TWX indicated that they did not desire assistance from Gen. Bunker's people. Accordingly I called [] of Gen. Bunker's staff and told him we would not need their people at this time. I told him that we would continue to

25X1

25X1

25X1

~~TOP SECRET~~

-3-

run clearances on the two people he recommended for this job in order that they would be cleared and available in the future if we should need their assistance. The two men recommended were:

25X1 [redacted]

TS clearance 17 Nov 1953

25X1 [redacted]

TS clearance 1 Nov 1954

The information above on these two men has been passed to Security in order that clearances may be obtained.

9. As you will have noted by my memo to Security, I approved the clearance of the Detachment A Senior Security Officer for SI material. This I deemed necessary since we have the possibility of a divided operation in which both bases will have SI data and currently the Intelligence Officer is the only one cleared to handle and program this material.

10. As a result of information regarding installation support in the European theater coming to Col. Berg through the Chief of Army in the Pentagon, Col. Berg suggested that Gen. Norstad be briefed on our overseas construction which would include making him witting of Project Aquatone in order that any support given our project would stay in proper channels, i.e. Air Force. I asked Gen. Cabell if he was aware of Norstad's having any knowledge of our project. He said that Norstad had not been briefed but that he and Mr. Dulles gave me authority to have this done. This information was passed to Col. Berg and as I understand it, Gen. Norstad has now been briefed.

11. Gen. Wm. P. Fisher visited me on 22 May to discuss our project and the related Air Force program. We had our regular Ops Center briefing for him after which Gen. Fisher and I discussed the two programs in my office. Gen. Fisher's two main comments were as follows. First, he thought we were heading for trouble if we continued to operate with all control being exercised here in Project Headquarters. He said if there was one thing he had learned in his many years of operations (which includes the recent SAC mission out of Thule on which you and I were briefed) that is that you must give your tactical outfit in the field latitude and freedom of action to operate as they best know how rather than control them at some distant point such as a headquarters in Washington. As a second point, he stated that the Air Force program had to get underway immediately or they would be without properly trained personnel. I informed him that we were in the process of finalizing on our security limitations on their program and would have it out

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

-4-

within the next few days. This we have accomplished and you have seen the paper to the Air Force. I also informed him that the operation of their project out of FEAF was their own business and did not need our concurrence nor assistance. He stated that he was going to go ahead and start operating his project out of Y----- as soon as possible. He also suggested that I visit SAC at my first opportunity in order to be given a complete briefing on the recent operation. He said he would be happy to give me a copy of the complete operational plan, how it was conceived and how it was operated. This, I believe, was more to needle me into looking at their method of operating in contrast to the method we have here of controlling everything from this Operations Center. When we have some time I would like to discuss this different concept with you because it has some merit and maybe by evolution rather than revolution we can change from our present complete control to more of a monitoring job here with the Detachments operating with more freedom of action. This thinking would involve giving these Detachments a brochure of targets to be covered and allowing them to get the coverage to the best of their ability and only alerting us prior to mission take-off as to what targets they are going after, and following completion of a mission, giving us complete information on the take. This is very brief and I would like to discuss it further.

25X1



13. The following items I believe should be given attention very soon. Most of them naturally tie in with the present diplomatic indecision regarding our operations in the [redacted] area.

25X1

a. I believe we can take steps to have the Air Force formally activate the [redacted] the latter to be based at [redacted] Even if we acted today it would take 10 days at least to get this activation order through Air Weather Service and USAF channels. I would recommend that we go ahead and have this activation initiated.

25X1

b. The [redacted] pilot situation is still with us and may become a thorn in our side if we do not operate from [redacted] If we operate from [redacted] or the Far East the problem is not acute as it will be if we only have Adana and [redacted] to operate from. I attach hereto a copy

25X1

TOP SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~

-5-

25X1 of a memorandum dated 25 May reporting on a meeting held here with members of the staff with [] attending. I was not present at the meeting.

25X1 c. Another item we should decide upon is whether we will turn [] operations over to the Air Force on 1 November provided the Air Force will finish testing our equipment, such as System 4, [] C camera, etc.

25X1 d. Also we should have our Operations people get together with Air Force and determine how we are going to operate the two programs in the same area and especially so when the Air Force starts operating the U-2 in the same area in which we are operating.

25X1 e. Our T/O must be increased again to allow for a little more depth in personnel. The increase requested by [] as permanent members of his organization, the need for a Supply Officer in this HQ to back up [] and a Deputy for [] are not covered by our present T/O.

25X1

25X1

25X1

[]
J. A. GIBBS
Deputy Project Director

~~TOP SECRET~~